

COTTON PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on January 17, 2018 at 7.30pm
at The Village Hall

PRESENT	Cllrs Peter Gibbs, Sarah Wenban, Marian Cocksedge, Chris Tester, Paul Howlett, and David Williams, and Rod Caird (Clerk). Four members of the public were also present. Cllr Andrew Stringer was attending another meeting.
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1/170118 Apologies and approvals of absence

Cllr Beryl Ellis had sent her apologies and her absence was approved.

2/170118 Declarations of Interest and dispensations requested

None

3/170118 To approve the Minutes of the meetings on November 22, 2017

The Minutes were approved and signed.

4/170118 To receive comments from members of the public on matters on the Agenda and reports from the District and County Councillor

Cllr Stringer's written report is circulated with these minutes, and will also be sent to all subscribers to the village email list.

A member of the public raised concerns about the condition of Scuffins Lane. It was noted that it is important to record all Highways issues on the Highways website for attention. The committee agreed to write again to the County Council if previous correspondence with the Cotton resident was made available.

5/170118 To consider any updates on planning issues

No new planning applications have been received. Installation of new exterior signage at the Trowel and Hammer has been approved, as has reduction of an oak tree at 4 Stewart Field. [Since the meeting, outline planning permission for a house at Willow Farm has been refused].

6/170118 To consider progress on repairs to the Cotton war memorial

It was agreed to commission Matthew Beesley, a surveyor approved by the War Memorials Trust, to carry out a survey and assessment of the memorial at a price of £280 + VAT. [Since the meeting we have heard from Historic England that the memorial has been granted Grade II Listed status].

7/170118 To review progress on refurbishment of the village sign

Cllr Howlett will take the sign down for repair in February.

8/170118 To consider an update on the police response to data from the Vehicle Activated Sign and related issues

Martin Yates was unable to attend the meeting but reported that the police safety camera team had been present in Station Road over New Year. Speed enforcement would follow as 23.8% of vehicles travelling from Stowmarket were at or over prosecution guidelines. Once our VAS sign was removed from the site the figure rose to 38.8%, demonstrating that the presence of our sign has an impact. Periodic enforcement at the site will continue. It was agreed to share data from the sign with the Bacton Parish Clerk.

9/170118 To receive a financial report from the Clerk including any payments due, including any further details about the Data Protection Regulations, and consideration of criteria for awarding Section 137 grants

A bank reconciliation was presented showing a bank balance of £19,596.24. A payment of £24.54 was made to Rod Caird for Clerk pay. CIL funds of £3,559.70 are held for specific community infrastructure projects in addition to an earmarked village reserve of £15,000. It was agreed the Chairman would advertise potential Section 137 grants in the next edition of the Quarterly. Possible projects for grants might include the Church bell-ringing group; a village event to mark the centenary of the end of WWI; and the playground at the Village Hall.

10/170118 Correspondence and urgent matters to be brought to the attention of the Parish Council

It was agreed the Chairman would draft wording, for approval by the Parish Council and subsequent advice from SALC, which would have the effect of bringing Carter's Meadow under the direct control and management of the Parish Council while also safeguarding its future as a meadow for the benefit of the village.

It was agreed that Bacton Parish Councillor David Chambers, who was present at the meeting, would consider ways of identifying commonality of interests between Cotton, Bacton and other neighbouring parishes.

The next meeting will be held on March 21, 2018.